



South Florida Water Management District

MINUTES GOVERNING BOARD WORKSHOP

November 9, 2010

1:00 PM

Florida Gulf Coast University, Student Union Ballroom
10501 FGCU Blvd., South
Ft. Myers, FL 33965

Members Present:

Sandy Batchelor
Jerry Montgomery

Eric Buermann, Chair
Kevin Powers

Charles Dauray
Glenn Waldman

Members Absent:

Joe Collins

Shannon Estenoz

1. Call to Order - Eric Buermann, Chairman, Governing Board

Chair Buermann called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

A song by Mike Jurgensen, "Roll on Caloosahatchee" was played in honor of the Caloosahatchee River.

2. Pledge of Allegiance - Eric Buermann, Chairman, Governing Board

Charles Dauray led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Dauray commented on his concerns for the Caloosahatchee River, the community's suggestions and addressing practicable solutions for the Caloosahatchee River.

3. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Minutes for:

- October 8, 2010, Special Governing Board meeting,
- October 13, 2010, Workshop,
- October 14, 2010, Regular Business meeting
- October 29, 2010, Special Governing Board meeting all held in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Motion made by Kevin Powers, seconded by Jerry Montgomery to Approve the following item(s): 3

Vote called. Voting yes: Kevin Powers, Jerry Montgomery, Sandy Batchelor, Eric Buermann, Charles Dauray, Glenn Waldman. Motion passed.

4. Agenda Addendum - Annette Carter, Director, Office of Governing Board & Executive Services

Annette Carter, Director, Office of Governing Board & Executive Services, read into the record:

Section 120.525, Florida Statutes, allows the District to change the published agenda for good cause shown, as determined by the presiding officer. The Chairman has determined good cause exists. These changes are being made in order to permit the Governing Board to accomplish necessary public business at this meeting and to reflect the items on the agenda that have been deleted, revised, added or postponed. These changes have been listed in the Addendum available to the public at the entrance to this meeting room and provided to the Governing Board.

Ms. Carter announced that Agenda Item 8 was deleted off the agenda.

5. Abstentions by Board Members from items on the Workshop Agenda

There were no abstentions by Board members.

6. Pull Items for Discussion from Consent Agenda

There were no items pulled for discussion from the Consent Agenda.

7. Water Resource Advisory Commission (WRAC) Report - Shannon Estenoz, Chair

Rick Smith, WRAC Facilitator, presented the WRAC report from the meeting held in West Palm Beach on November 4th, 2010. As Mr. Smith is retiring, the November WRAC meeting was his last meeting.

Mr. Smith reported on the WRAC structure and WRAC members agreed with "Option 2" as presented by Mr. Olliff and modified by WRAC. Option 2 preserves the existing WRAC structure with minor changes recommended as follows:

- The SFWMD Governing Board Chair would designate appropriate Board members to be "liaisons" to WRAC. These Governing Board members would not be members of WRAC.
- Remove Federal Agency representatives as WRAC members but invite them to represent the agencies at WRAC and related meetings.

WRAC also agreed to continue to discuss language for proposed charter amendments to either:

- Have the Chair, SFWMD Governing Board, appoint a WRAC Chair from among the WRAC appointed membership (not State agency representatives or Federal agency "invitees") or
- Enable WRAC to elect the WRAC Chair from among the WRAC appointed membership (not State agency or Federal agency representatives).

Mr. Powers and Mr. Dauray also agreed that Board members should be liaisons.

Mr. Montgomery commented on WRAC being under Sunshine Law requirements, and the challenges this presents to WRAC members.

Other issues discussed at WRAC were the WRAC accomplishments from 2004 - 2010, the WRAC Lake Okeechobee Committee report, DRAFT Lake Okeechobee Protection Plan (LOPP), and Dispersed Water Management/Payment for Environmental Services.

The Board thanked Mr. Smith for his service with the District and WRAC.

8. Human Resources & Outreach Committee Report - Jerry Montgomery, Chair

As the HRO Committee was canceled, this item was deleted off the agenda.

9. Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW) Update - Brenda Brooks, Executive Director CREW Trust

Bill Hammond, CREW, presented background information on the CREW Land & Water Trust, a nonprofit organization formed in 1989 which is dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of the water resources and natural communities in and around the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed (CREW).

Brenda Brooks, Executive Director, CREW Trust, presented an update on the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed Program. She reported on education and public outreach and thanked the Board for their continued support.

Mr. Dauray introduced John Vaughn and Clarence Tears who were in the audience and said CREW is a regional support system in the area.

Public Comment: William Cobb, citizen, commented on the CREW project and said it is a project that will never be completed due to incomplete land acquisitions. His concern is his property is being condemned.

Ms. Wehle said the boundaries have changed for the CREW project and she will speak with Mr. Cobb about his concerns.

The Board requested this issue be resolved as soon as possible.

Public Comment: Shane Snell, citizen, commented on the CREW program and the problems there. He said there needs to be more recreation in the area.

Mr. Dauray said part of the Board's responsibility is making District land available for public use but not all of the land can be made available.

10. State of Water Resources

A) Water Conditions Report - Tommy Strowd, Deputy Executive Director, Operations & Maintenance (ext. 6998)

B) Water Supply Report & Water Shortage Planning Actions - Terrie Bates, Assistant Deputy Executive Director, Regulatory and Public Affairs (ext. 6952)

C) Ecological Conditions Report - Linda Lindstrom, Director, Restoration Sciences Department (ext. 6820)

D) US Army Corps of Engineers' Lake Okeechobee Report - Kimberley Taplin, P.E., West Palm Beach Deputy Program Manager for Restoration, US Army Corps of Engineers

Tommy Strowd, Deputy Executive Director, Operations & Maintenance, provided the Water Conditions Report and said October was the driest October in south Florida since record-keeping time in 1932 (historic period of record). He reported on the drought monitor for Florida, groundwater levels and the water supply status. He reported on Lake Okeechobee operations and noted the USACE's Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule (2008 LORS) continues to suggest baseflow releases.

Terrie Bates, Assistant Deputy Executive Director, Regulatory and Public Affairs, presented information on the Water Supply Report and planning for water shortage:

- Encourage voluntary water conservation by all users.
- With water shortage in effect, no BMP replacement water deliveries will be made to the Water Conservation Areas.
- Increased communication with water users, local government and public.
- Coordination meeting with water users will be held in Okeechobee on November 15th, 2010.

Linda Lindstrom, Director, Restoration Sciences Department, presented the ecological conditions report and said all of the systems are doing very well. Ms. Lindstrom reported on the Kissimmee Basin and noted conditions are good although the dry season is early this year. Ms. Lindstrom then reported on the ecological conditions of Lake Okeechobee and the salinity levels in the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries.

Kim Taplin, West Palm Beach Deputy Program Manager for Restoration, USACE, presented the USACE's Lake Okeechobee Report.

Ms. Wehle said staff will begin to report on the ecological conditions of the STA's.

Ms. Wehle also said she will meet with the Editorial Boards of the newspapers and explain the preparation being done by the District in anticipation of a drought.

Public Comment: Jane Graham, Audubon of Florida, thanked the District for following the Lake Okeechobee protocols.

Public Comment: Charles Shinn, Florida Farm Bureau, said agriculture already feels they are in the drought. He said now is the time to conserve water.

11. Introduction to 2011 South Florida Environmental Report, and Peer-Review Panel Findings and Recommendations on Draft Volume I - Garth Redfield, Ph.D., Chief Scientist, Restoration Sciences Department (ext. 6611)

Garth Redfield, Chief Scientist, Restoration Sciences Department, presented information on the 2011 South Florida Environmental Report (SFER).

Dr. Redfield provided background information, objectives and process for the 2011 SFER. He then reported on the 2011 Peer-Review Panel's recommendations:

Hydrology and Water Quality:

- District and FDEP have successfully published an excellent synthesis of water quality for a large, complex region.
- Expand integration and automation of water quality within chapter's and across chapters/programs.
- Continuing study of factors driving mercury cycling and accumulation is encouraged, especially regarding sulfur interactions.

Nutrient Source Controls and Everglades STAs:

- Expand reporting on how regional nutrient control programs are impacting long-term, water quality compliance goals.
- Add a formal assessment of scientific studies in the STAs to aid in information/understanding of STA performance optimization.
- More description on STA compliance reporting.

Everglades Ecology:

- Continue Everglades research on tree island dynamics, nesting statistics, restoration of plant assemblages, and role of climate in restoration.
- Expand emphasis on exotic species and consider authors' recommendations on exotic controls in future reports.

Everglades Restoration/Long-Term Plan Update:

- Local data from CERP restoration projects needs to connect implementation to ecosystem responses in RECOVER system-wide data.
- Consider consolidation of these two chapters.

Nonindigenous Species:

- Nonindigenous animals are a huge threat to regional restoration efforts and deserve more multi-agency attention.
- Analyze risk to restoration if exotic controls are not successful.

Lake Okeechobee:

- Using watershed management to reach the loading goal of 140 metric tons will require aggressive control programs.
- More study needed on reducing internal (sediment) phosphorus release.

Kissimmee Basin:

- Stress importance of water reservations to protect the gains made in ecosystem health.
- Continue attention to nutrient controls in the Kissimmee Basin.

Coastal Ecosystems:

- Need more information on exotic species in coastal areas.
- Provide an update/linkages to the District's Science Plan for coastal ecosystems in future reporting.

12. Update on Climate Change and Water Management in South Florida - Jayantha Obeysekera, Director, Hydrologic & Environmental Systems Modeling Department, and Kim Shugar, Director, Intergovernmental Programs Department (ext. 6016 and 6503)

Jayantha Obeysekera, Director, Hydrologic & Environmental Systems Modeling Department, presented an update on Climate Change, temperature projections, attribution for current and evolving climate conditions, coastal street flooding issues during high tide, the District's White Paper and Strategy and the potential climate change impacts to the SFWMD.

Dr. Obeysekera then reported on future projections for sea level rise, future rate of acceleration, model development for flood protection and water supply, and impacts to coastal structures because of rising seas.

Kim Shugar, Director, Intergovernmental Programs Department, presented information on rising seas, water supply and saltwater intrusion. Ms. Shugar reported on saltwater and groundwater interface. Staff will be reviewing groundwater monitoring network used to develop the map of the saltwater-groundwater interface. Ms. Shugar reported on water supply and water conservation efforts and alternative water supply options.

Public Comment: Jane Graham, Audubon, thanked staff and the Governing Board for being proactive on climate change and taking the initiative on this issue.

13. Overview of the Miami-Dade Lake Belt Plan and the Legislatively Established Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund and Interagency Committee - Terrie Bates, Assistant Deputy Executive Director, Regulatory and Public Affairs (ext. 6952)

Terrie Bates, Assistant Deputy Executive Director, Regulatory and Public Affairs, presented an overview of the Miami-Dade Lake Belt Plan and the Legislatively-established Lake Belt Mitigation Trust Fund and Interagency Committee. This item will be on the Consent Agenda, November 10, 2010.

14. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

15. Adjourn

Chair Buermann adjourned the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Motion made by Jerry Montgomery, seconded by Kevin Powers to adjourn the meeting. Vote called. Voting yes: Jerry Montgomery, Joe Collins, Kevin Powers, Eric Buermann, Charles Dauray, Sandy Batchelor and Glenn Waldman. Motion passed.

Eric Buermann
Governing Board Chairman
South Florida Water Management District Governing Board

Recorded By:

Cathy Widness
Administrative Assistant Senior
Governing Board and Executive Services
SFWMD